in Baroda and Mysore and had been doing remarkably well in those two States. The complaint of the Mysore Bank was that it was unable to receive the deposits which were pouring in, because a remunerative opening could not be found for them. So, a thirst had been created in Mysore for the investment of deposits from the people. Another idea which the Dewan of Mysore had in mind was to start a Bank for financing agriculture on long-term credit. Those institutions were called Land Banks intended to convert lands into liquid capital. There was plenty of land in Travancore which required a liberal expenditure of capital. The ryot, who now found it difficult to scrape up some money, would be able to command capital, if he was enabled to convert his lands into liquid money which, again, could be utilized in several directions for the benefit of the people. There was another kind of Bank called Commerical Banks for the benefit of small traders. The regeneration of Egypt was brought about by the institution of the Agricultural Bank. Japan did the same. All those countries found that, by enabling the people to convert dead capital of the land into liquid capital, many industries could be started. The Member, on the analogy of those countries, contended that the people of Travancore too ought to have an Industrial and Land Bank on the one side and a Commercial Bank on the other. The Bank of Madras was utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the people of the country. What was required was a Bank which ought to be of use both to the people and the Government, with branches throughout the country, even in *pakuthis*. Another direction in which the Government might help the development of agriculture was by curtailing the import of paddy into the State. If proper measures were taken, not only could the supply necessary for consumption in the country be produced locally, but a large quantity could also be exported from the State. There were available large areas of *puduval* lands in Kuttanad which were now cultivated only once in two years and were not producing even one-tenth of the quantity they were capable of yielding. The people were shy in making experiments. It was the duty of the Government to demonstrate to the ryot the improved and scientific methods of producing more paddy and then ask the people to proceed on the same lines. That was the most effective means of securing the end in view. Dr. Kunjan Pillai, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, was also of the opinion that the suggestion made by the Member was one of the means by which the yield of paddy in Travancore could be increased ten or twenty fold.

The Member then referred to a small piece of engineering work in which the people were interested, namely, the construction of an enbankment at the northern end of the Vembanad lake, from Thanneermukkam to Vechur, for a distance of about a mile, which would prevent the inrush of brackish water into the reclaimed areas and would also keep out the water from the lake during the ebb and flow. The people, the Member added, had a proposal to wait on the Dewan on deputation in connection with the construction of the embankment.

Dewan.—I shall be glad to receive the deputation. I fear, however, that it would be a big piece of engineering work in which expert advice will have to be taken. Even if it were possible, there may be financial and other difficulties.

Member.—I would request at least an investigation being ordered and the ryots being given an opportunity to explain the matter personally. I think it would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred on the people of North and Central Travancore for the amelioration of their condition. The cost would be very insignificant when compared to the benefit that could be derived.

The Member, continuing, requested, in conclusion, that the points mentioned by him might receive the kind and early consideration of Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. The present economic depression in Travancore and remedies for the same.

Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that a country whose imports of articles manufactured in foreign countries came to 41 per cent of the total trade and whose exports of articles manufactured out of her own raw produce was but 12 per cent of the total export trade was decidedly very backward in her economic condition. He then referred to the utter inability of

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young men who were turned out of the Universities to secure a living and observed that the Government were not utilizing an excellent source of man-power in those men.

Another problem that had to be tackled was how to find work for the large army of beggars loitering in the country, many of whom suffered from no ailments whatever. According to the Member, the following were the reasons for the present depressed condition of the State :—

(1) Depressed condition of trade and industries,

(2) Drainage of national wealth owing to the use of alcohol, opium, ganja and other intoxicants.

(3) The decrease in cattle and the consequent deterioration in agriculture, and individual health.

(4) Absence of facilities for saving the national wealth.

The Member added that he had the privilege of inviting the attention of the Government on three previous occasions to the subject of his representation. He felt thankful to the Government for appointing an officer to conduct an Industrial Survey. Though Dr. Barker appeared to be sympathetic, his ignorance of the language and the conditions of the country was a serious bar to his moving freely among the people. What the Member proposed as a remedy was the formation of a Committee composed of Indian merchants and capable Indian Officers to help Dr. Barker ; for, Dr. Barker told the Member that he was not prepared under any circumstances to suggest any State financial aid to any industries. That was exactly the point on which the people in British India and the Government differed. With the exception of Sir Frederick Nicholson, almost every European witness who gave evidence before the Industrial Commission had said that Government ought not to finance industries, whereas every Indian merchant and Sir Frederick Nicholson had said in most emphatic terms that the Government should not only finance small industries but that they should also start large industrial concerns, work them out profitably bear the losses and expenses at the initial stage and then leave them to the people, at a time when they attained a state of prosperity.

The Member then stated that the first beginning towards the development of industries was to organise immediately an Industrial Museum, where a specimen of each of the articles now imported into the country could be collected. The Department of Industries should obtain information concerning the countries where they were produced, their cost in the country of production, probable transport charges and the sale price realised in the country, and the various uses to which such articles could be put. They must be exhibited for the information of the public and suggestions should be invited from experts who could undertake to produce the same things here and at a moderate cost. Bounties or prizes should be given to those who undertook to do the work, and, when once satisfactory results were obtained, they must be made known widely, and the person, who accomplished the work successfully, should be given good grants or honoraria. The information thus acquired should be taken up by the Industries Department which should promote the industry and make it paying. At that stage, it ought to be left to the public to be subscribed over by them.

In the same manner, samples of the raw produce of the country and of the articles manufactured by foreign countries out of the raw produce of the State should also be exhibited in the same building and suggestions should be invited for the improvement of the existing manufactures and the conversion of raw products into useful manufactured substances.

The creation of an efficient and sympathetic Industries Department and an Advisory Board ought to be the first step in that direction and the opening of a Museum on the lines indicated above should be the next.

The Member then spoke about the necessity for starting a State Bank. It was no use depending on the foreign banks, because they would not help Indian industries whole-heartedly, especially when such industries would not benefit the

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European exporter here or the European manufacturer at home. A sum of Rs. 2,54,464 had been lying with the Bank of Madras in 1091 throughout the year as permanent advance with the Bank. Bank cheques to the value of Rs. 14,40,816 had been issued, or, in other words, transactions to the extent of that figure had been carried on with the Bank. Then again, the Government had spent about Rs.1,467 as Banker's commission. There was no justification for such an extraordinary patronage. If the Bank were a private concern, he would have had no quarrel with it, but it was not so. He, therefore, requested the Government to withdraw their funds and support from the Bank and open a State Bank to fill up the gap. The industries and trade of the country were being strangled to death for want of financial facilities and it was necessary to come to their rescue by offering them greater financial facilities; and the day that announces that boon would mark the era of prosperity for the Travancore trader and industrialist.

The next subject dealt with by the Member was importation of salt. Salt to the value of Rs. 2,13,059 was imported into the State during 1091 and, in the annual report of the Excise Department, it was stated thus;—"The supply of salt required for consumption in the State is obtained partly from the Sirkar factories (*allams*) in South Travancore and partly by import from Bombay and Tinnevelly". He could not understand why the Government should continue the practice of importing salt from Bombay, while it had its own manufacture of salt and while the work of supervision of salt *allams* was said to be now under an expert officer, who was acknowledged to be eminently fitted for the work, and why that industry should not be so completely developed as to stop the necessity for importing Bombay salt. He, therefore, requested the Government to make careful enquiries into matter with a view to meet all local requirements of salt from the State pans, as early as possible.

The establishment of a Central Technological College, the Member continued, was highly necessary, if industries were to be scientifically begun and developed. No doubt, that was a big scheme and it involved considerable outlay of money. But it was as much necessary for the promotion of industries as best medical aid was for saving valuable life. In the same manner, if the industrial regeneration of the country was seriously desired by the Government, the establishment of a Central Technological College was an indispensable necessity and he prayed that the Government would take that matter into their kind and sympathetic consideration. About the charge frequently levelled against young men not continuing their scientific studies after their College career, the Member said that there was no provision made for an expert student in Chemistry to go on with his chemical researches. Neither was any material source of income held out to him, nor was any competent scientist available to guide and help him in his researches. If, the Member proceeded, the Government would help the research student to carry on his investigations and enable him to produce any articles on a commercially successful scale, that would be sufficient inducement for any ordinary person to undertake an industrial concern and carry it through. He, therefore, suggested that industrial researches should be instituted, that a competent Chemistry Professor should be appointed as the Government Analyst and that research work should be encouraged by the grant of liberal scholarships and bounties.

Equally important was the question of awarding foreign scholarships. The Member submitted that the age limit should be extended to 30 and that men who were already in business enterprises should be given perference; and, where that was impossible, if business men were prepared to defray a part of the cost, the Government should at least provide them with the balance and obtain them admission into Technical Colleges. In the same manner, scholarships should be provided for visiting the leading commercial centres in India also.

The next point urged by the Member was that the Government should also make arrangements to buy Indian manufactured articles, wherever they were available, instead of importing the same from foreign countries.

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It was well-known that the State forests afforded ample scope for the promotion of several industries. Those questions had to be cautiously and carefully handled. Though he knew of several industries that could be profitably worked out of the forest produce, he would not refer to them, as he proposed to place them before Dr. Barker and the Conservator of Forests at no distant date.

The Member then discussed the question of protection which was a very great one and had to be carefully handled. When the State increased the duty on copra and reduced the duty on oil, the Government of the country where that product used to go, reduced the import duty on oil and thus the balance in prices was adjusted, so that the exporter always found it more profitable to export the raw produce instead of the manufactured articles. If the advancement of local manufacture and industries was the aim of the Government, protection in one form or other would be found to be absolutely necessary, as otherwise the foreign competitor was sure to dump the market with a better quality of article at a lower price. He, therefore, requested the serious attention of the Government to the question.

The Member also spoke about the drainage of national wealth and health owing to the use of alcohol, opium and ganja. No arguments were necessary to convince any body about the evils of those intoxicants. He then quoted a few passages from the letters of His Lordship the Bishop of Changanacherry and Bishop Gill of Kottayam who had disapproved of the excise policy of the State. After dealing with the details from the standpoint of a temperance reformer, the Member pleaded for a total abolition of the import of European liquors, manufacture and sale of arrack, and sale of opium and ganja. In Burma, the total abolition of the State monopoly of liquor in 1915 had resulted in the people saving fifteen million pounds sterling mostly deposited as one anna and two annas in the Village Savings Banks. Further, such a reform, if achieved, would, in the words of Mr. D. E. Wacha, "achieve a most laudable reform of the greatest value to the people. Both their health and morals would be vastly improved." Considering those advantages, it would not be too much if he were to request Government that they should forego their revenue of Rs. 17,41,892. But he was perfectly conscious that a proposal for total abolition would not be within the range of practical politics. He, therefore, made the following suggestions for the consideration of Government:—

1. Import and sale of European liquors should be completely stopped. That one item took away from the country a sum of Rs. 3,23,988 and there did not seem to be any justification for its continuance; but, if the Government thought it impossible, he prayed, in the alternative, that the license fee and duty be so enhanced as to make the cost of those articles prohibitive.

2. In the same manner, the Government should increase the price of arrack, opium and ganja, to a very high figure; and a stricter control should be exercised in the matter of their sale. The opening of arrack shops, in particular localities should be left to local option, and the Government should insist on local Committees being formed in each centre, with the avowed object of putting down the consumption of those intoxicants, and a steady ideal should be aimed at by the Government with a view to bring down the consumption of those intoxicants to a very low degree.

3. The condition of cattle in Travancore was far from satisfactory and the Director of Agriculture agreed with him on that point. Unfortunately, cattle statistics were not available, and, therefore, one could not have a very correct idea as to the former strength and the present strength of cattle in the country. There was no gain saying the fact that the number of cattle was decreasing year after year and that it was one of the contributory causes that had impoverished the manure of the soil. The supply of good milk, especially in towns, was very difficult and that question was taxing the minds of several people. At the same time, people living in towns experienced very great difficulty in breeding cows. There were no pasture lands at hand; good grass could not be had at all, even if one was prepared to pay the highest price. All the cattle looked emaciated, thin and worn out. When things were thus placed with regard to the condition of cattle in the country, it was a matter for extreme regret that even several healthy cows were slaughtered every day in the slaughter houses. He was not arguing the question from a religious point of view.

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In England, cows were not slaughtered but only bulls specially nurtured for the purpose of consumption were killed. The agriculturist of the present day felt very great difficulty in his work, because the number of cattle was insufficient. The enormous and frightful infant mortality, the poverty of the soil consequent on the reduction in the number of cattle and the scarcity of good milk, were serious dangers to the economic conditions. His suggestions to improve the situation were,—

(*a*) pasture lands should be opened in every town, especially one in Alleppey, and placed under the Agricultural Department;

(*b*) cattle farming should either be conducted by the Government on a very large scale or private men undertaking to do so should be given decent grants and sites free of cost; and

(*c*) slaughter of cows in the State should be prohibited by means of a Royal Proclamation.

4. The poor people of the country did not know how to save their small earnings and sufficient facilities were not provided. The Government should organise a series of Village Savings Banks and popularise them amongst the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

66. Speedy completion of the Kodimatha landing stage.

Mr. Robert Tait (Member, the Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that, though the improvement of the Kodimatha landing was sanctioned by the Government in 1914, very little work was done in 1915, the amount allotted being largely used to acquire the land. At the last session of the Assembly, the Association's Member asked if the work could be completed ere the monsoon of 1916 broke in. He was informed that the work would be completed, provided the planters lent the necessary funds. Funds were subscribed but the landing was not yet finished. The Member added that the Association had already represented to the Government the importance of the work and the benefits which would accrue from it and requested that the necessary orders might be issued for its speedy completion.

Dewan's reply.—I understand from the Chief Engineer that the work will be finished in another month.

67. The Mundakayam-Ranni Road.

Mr. E. Vincent (Member, the Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that the question of joining up Mundakayam with Ranni was brought up on behalf of his Association at the Assembly held in 1914 and that he had been instructed by his Association to request the Government at the present session of the Assembly to give careful consideration to the scheme which, if carried out, would be of great benefit not only to the planting districts in particular, but also to the agricultural population in general. At the present time, there were two estates in the district—Vellanadi and Cheruvally—each with its own outlet road, the former to Mundakayam and the latter to the road known as the Manimala road between Kanjirappalli and Ranni. The Member's request was that those two estates might be joined up by a road which, with the two estate roads in question, would give a direct connection with Ranni. The mere fact that the cutting up of the above road would place Mundakayam within 50 miles from the Punalur Railway Station was sufficient to warrant the work being taken in hand. The road would, moreover, facilitate communications for a large number of cultivators in and around Chennapadi. The tract would run practically in concurrence with the pilgrim tract to Sabarimalai. It would also facilitate the recruiting of labour in South Travancore and Tinnevelly and would give Peermade and Mundakayam a reserve outlet. The latter consideration was most important, as, during three months of the year, the West Coast Ports were closed and the Kottayam-Kumili road, the present sole outlet, was unused. The distance between the terminus of the road from Mundakayam to Vellanadi and the road from Cheruvalli to Ranni was 6 or 7 miles.

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